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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC APRIL 17, 1973 FROM
ATHENS IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2297

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, GR/ US

SUBJECT: PRESS DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE BY VISITING JURISTS
INVESTIGATING DETENTION SIX GREEK LAWYERS

REF: ATHENS 2165

1. AMERICAN LAWYER WILLIAM BUTLER AND CANADIAN JURIST JOHN HUMPHREY HELD SMALL PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING APR 14, TO WHICH A FEW FOREIGN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS INVITED. CONFERENCE OPENED WITH STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY PREPARED BY THEM, TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN LAWYER MORRIS ABRAM. ABRAM HAD DEPARTED EARLIER IN WEEK FOR RETURN TO U. S. TEXT OF STATEMENT IDENTICAL WITH THAT PREVIOUSLY FORWARDED TO DEPT BY REFTEL EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF SINGLE SENTENCE AT END OF FIRST PARAGRAPH WHICH READS: " WHILE WE WERE IN GREECE ONE MORE LAWYER WAS ARRESTED." BUTLER AND HUMPHREY DEPARTED FROM ATHENS APR 15. TO DATE, THE ENGLISH- LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS (APR 17) IS ONLY PAPER WHICH REPORTED FACT OF PRESS CONFERENCE AND PUBLISHED TEXT OF PRE-
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PARED STATEMENT.

2. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING READING OF STATEMENT, LAWYERS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) THEY HAD APPLIED THROUGH U. S. EMBASSY ATHENS FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER AND, ALTHOUGH UNSUCCESSFUL, " THEY HAD NO DOUBT THAT AMBASSADOR TASCA HAD TRIED VERY HARD TO GET REGIME'S CONSENT FOR THE INTERVIEWS;" (2) THEY MET WITH PRESIDENT OF ATHENS BAR ASSOCIATION WHO WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY NEITHER ARTICLE 10 OF 1968 CONSTITUTION NOR SECTION 278 OF MILITARY CODE (BOTH OF WHICH SET TIME LIMITS TO PRE- TRIAL DETENTION) WERE NOT APPLIED IN CASES OF SIX DETAINED LAWYERS. VISITING LAWYERS ALSO NOTED THAT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT (APPOINTED BY REGIME) COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY ASSOCIATION HAD NOT PROTESTED AGAINST TREATMENT GIVEN GREEK LAWYERS (ATHENS 2166); AND (3) THEY LEAVE ATHENS " FULLY CONVINCED THAT GREECE IS A POLICE STATE."

3. ATHENS NEWS PRESENTED ITS REPORT AS LEAD FRONT- PAGE STORY UNDER BOLD HEADLINES " FOREIGN JURISTS CONDEMN GREEK POLICE METHODS."

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